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OPENING STATEMENT BY SENATOR JOHN STENNIS
CHAIRMAN, PREPAREDNESS INVESTIGATING SUBCOMMITTEE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1963

This afternoon we resume our inquiry into the troublesome Cuban situation. As I have said before, the purpose of our investigation is to obtain all of the facts for the purpose of assessing the threat which a Russian dominated Cuba presents to the security of our country and the entire Western Hemisphere. In addition, we hope that, through our inquiry, we can make some tangible contribution in shaping a national policy which will solve this very important problem once and for all.

I want to stress that our investigation is not punitive in its nature and that it is not undertaken for the mere purpose of revealing or spotlighting any past errors or deficiencies. We are concerned largely with the present and the future. While the past is important, it is important primarily for the light which it sheds on the current situation and as an aid in assessing what might be expected in the weeks and months to come.

With these things in mind, it will be our policy to continue to insist that there be a full disclosure of all available information which might bear upon the matters we have under consideration.

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Our witness today is Major General Robert A. Breitweiser, Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, United States Air Force. In his capacity as the Air Force Chief of intelligence General Breitweiser is also a member of the United States Intelligence Board. In these capacities the General has detailed knowledge of both the past and present intelligence aspects of the Cuban situation. He is also familiar with the threat which the military situation in Cuba poses to us and can address himself specifically to this threat as it stems from Cuban based activities which are within the particular competence of the Air Force.

While General Breitweiser's testimony will, to a limited extent, cover some of the general areas discussed with us by John McCone, Director of Central Intelligence, he, of course, operates in a different capacity and will be able to fill us in on significant events and details as seen from the viewpoint of Air Force intelligence. In addition, we will have the opportunity to interrogate him about specific matters which were not covered when Mr. McCone appeared before us.